

## August 14, 1943, letter from Bliss Wiant to B.A. Botkin

**Hiwassee College FOUNDED 1849 OWNED AND OPERATED BY METHODIST  
CHURCH Madisonville, Tennessee**

August 14, 1943

Mr. B.A.Botkin, Division of Music, Library of Congress.

Dear Sir:

On August 1st, it was my privilege to be a judge at the third annual festival and contest of negro spirituals at Fort Valley, Georgia under the leadership of Willis L. James.

During the festival there was a half hour of broadcast. I was informed that this broadcast was recorded and the recordings were sent in to you.

I am anxious to receive a set of this material inasmuch as I have never before witnessed such an outpouring of spontaneous and powerful melody. We need not fear for the vitality of the negro but because of it if this is a criterion of his native urge and expression.

Will you kindly therefore, let me know concerning these records and I shall appreciate it very much.

Sincerely, Bliss Wiant Bliss Wiant.